

REMARKS

The Official Action dated August 16, 2007 has been carefully considered. Accordingly, it is believed that the present Amendment places this application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

By the present Amendment, claim 31 is amended to include the limitations of claim 43, and claims 41 and 42 from which claim 43 depended. Additionally, claim 51 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 31 and 50, from which it previously depended, and thereby to stand in independent form. Claims 33, 41-43, 50, 53-56, 60 and 75 are cancelled. Finally, claim 57 is amended to change its dependency from cancelled claim 56 to claim 31, as the limitation of claim 56, that the lens guiding arrangement is arranged to allow displacement of the lens optic along the path in the optic axis direction, has been incorporated in claim 31 from claim 41. It is believed that these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter, and do not raise any new issues subsequent to final rejection, whereby entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Claims 31, 32, 34-40, 44-46, 48, 49, 51, 52, 57-59, 62-73 and 77-80 are pending.

In the Official Action, the Examiner indicated that while claims 43 and 51 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that claim 31 corresponds with claim 43 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 31 and intervening claims 41 and 42. Further, Applicants submit that claim 51 is amended herein to stand in independent form, including all of the limitations of base claim 31 and intervening claim 50. It is therefore believed that claims 31 and 51 are in prima facie condition for allowance. Further, as claims 32, 34-40, 44-46, 48, 49, 52, 57-59, 62-73 and 77-80 depend directly or indirectly from claim 31, it is believed that these claims are also allowable, with withdrawn claims 38,

48, 49, 65 and 66 being rejoined with generic claim 41. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 31-37, 39-42, 44-46, 50, 52, 56-60, 62-64, 67-73, 75 and 77-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Kelman U.S. Patent No. 5,190,552. In view of the amendment to claim 31 to include the limitations of claims 41-43, and the cancellation of claim 75, it is believed that this rejection has been overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action, and places the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

Please charge any fees required in connection with the present communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 04-1133.

Respectfully submitted,

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